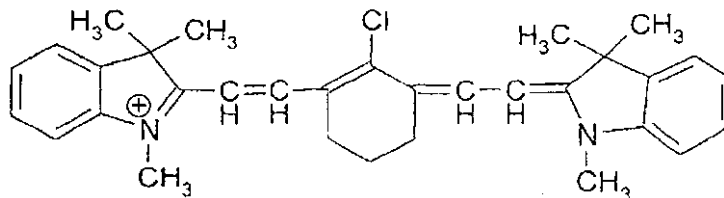


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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A lithographic printing form precursor comprising:
an anodized aluminum support; and
an imagable coating on the aluminum support, wherein the imagable coating comprises a polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups and reversible insolubilizer groups;
wherein the aluminum support has been anodized but not subsequently subjected to a chemical treatment step, and wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye.
2. (Previously presented) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric substance is derived from a polymer comprising hydroxyl groups, able to react with a colorant compound or moiety, to produce the polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups.
3. (Currently amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 2, wherein the polymer comprising hydroxyl groups is a phenolic resin selected from the group consisting of a novolac resin, a resole resin, a novolac/resole resin mixture and polyhydroxystyrene, and a copolymer of hydroxystyrene.
4. (Currently amended) A precursor as claimed in claim 2, wherein the colorant compound or moiety is selected from the group consisting of triarylmethane dyes, quaternized heterocyclic compounds, quinolinium compounds, benzothiazolium compounds, pyridinium compounds, polymethine dyes, cyanine dyes, Methylene blue, and a dye having the cation



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5. (Original) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric substance comprises infra-red absorbing groups.
6. (Original) A precursor as claimed in claim 5, wherein the infra-red absorbing groups are also colorant groups.
7. (Previously presented) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a free infra-red absorbing compound.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously presented) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are also colorant groups.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Previously presented) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the colorant groups also act as infra-red absorbing groups, and as reversible insolubilizer groups.
12. (Previously presented) A precursor as claimed in claim 11, wherein the colorant groups are polymethine dyes or cyanine dyes.
13. (Previously presented) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a free compound which acts as a reversible insolubilizer compound.
14. (Previously presented) A precursor as claimed in claim 13, wherein the free reversible insolubilizer compound is selected from the group consisting of naphthoflavone, 2,3-diphenyl-1-indeneone, flavone, flavanone, xanthone, benzophenone, N-(4-bromobutyl) phthalimide and phenanthrenequinone.
15. (Previously presented) A precursor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the imagable coating comprises a pigment.

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16. (Original) A precursor as claimed in claim 15, wherein the pigment is carbon black, lamp black, furnace black, channel black, iron (III) oxide, manganese oxide, Milori Blue, Paris Blue, Prussian Blue, Heliogen Green or Nigrosine Base NG1.

17. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a lithographic printing form precursor having an imagable coating on an aluminum support, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) anodizing an aluminum support;
- b) without having effected a chemical treatment step after the anodizing step, applying a composition comprising a polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups and reversible insolubilizer groups to the anodized surface of the aluminum support; and
- c) drying the composition to form an imagable coating on the anodized surface, wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a printing form comprising the steps of:

- a) anodizing an aluminum support;
- b) without having effected a chemical treatment step after the anodizing step, applying a composition comprising a polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups and reversible insolubilizer groups to the anodized surface of the aluminum support;
- c) drying the composition to form an imagable coating on the anodized surface, wherein the coating does not comprise a free colorant dye;

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- d) exposing the coating imagewise, and;
- e) removing the exposed regions of the coating using a developer liquid.

23. (Previously presented) A printing form prepared from the lithographic printing form precursor of claim 1.

24. (Previously presented) The precursor of claim 1, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl, -O-CO-Ph, and diazide functional groups.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of reacting a polymer comprising hydroxyl groups with a colorant compound or moiety, to produce the polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl, -O-CO-Ph, and diazide functional groups.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising the step of reacting a polymer comprising hydroxyl groups with a colorant compound or moiety, to produce the polymeric substance having pendent colorant groups.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the reversible insolubilizer groups are selected from the group consisting of -O-SO₂-tolyl, -O-dansyl, -O-SO₂-thienyl, -O-SO₂-naphthyl, -O-CO-Ph, and diazide functional groups.